

March 7, 2011
Draft Meeting Minutes
Beaver Meadow Golf Advisory Committee

Members Present:

Chris Mulleavey, Chair
Jim Marshall
Roger Jobin
David Croft
Jennifer Kretovic
Fran Hunt
Dick Holden
Bob Vachon
Mark Coen
Vera Buck
Charles Vanasdalan
Bernard "Sid" Chase
David Gill
Ed Deshaies

Members Absent:

Senior Permit User Position Vacant
Bob Vachon

Others Attending:

City Manager Tom Aspell
Phil Bilodeau
Mayor Jim Bouley
Chip Chesley

A call to Order

The Committee sets aside its usual agenda for this special meeting.

City Manager Tom Aspell has asked to speak to the Committee to share his proposed reorganization of General Services and an expanded Parks and Recreation Department. The reorganization will be given to City Council for consideration on March 14, 2011. The reorganization is prompted by the issue of the separation of Recreation from the Grounds Maintenance piece. This separation is unusual with respect to practice across the country.

In addition to the programming and maintenance pieces of the operation of the parks system, The Community Development Department is involved with acquisition of land and The Engineering division of Community Development participates in design and construction management.

The proposed Department would move Parks Maintenance, Cemetery Maintenance, and Golf to the new Department. The Tree Crew would remain in Highways.

This new Department would be a work in progress. Other elements such as the Tree Crew might be brought into the Department at a later date.

There would be no additional costs associated with the new Department.

Also at the March 14th meeting David Gill will bring forth the funding proposal prompted by the Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee on Recreation. This proposal would create endowments that could be funded through private donations. These requests for donations will necessitate delivery of excellent "product" in the form of excellent parks and programs.

This would move the Parks into a business model similar to the Golf Course and away from the Maintenance model currently employed. It is a move that will ensure future success of the Parks as tax dollars continue to be stressed and Parks has to compete with mandated City activities such as plowing and public safety.

An example of the willingness of those able in the community to support the Parks through donations, Tom shared an opportunity to donate in support of pools at the recent State of the City Forum. By late morning, several calls had been fielded with interest in donating.

The scheduling function of the Audi would move to the new department in the near future upon the retirement of the current city employee responsible for scheduling. This would fulfill the vision of current Audi supporters of the Audi as an Arts Park.

Roger asks what role GAC would have in new department. Tom envisions the Committee working more closely with David to make improvements to the golf course, such as the recent grant application to the LWCF to improve the ponds at Beaver Meadow.

Roger states GAC has made customer service a priority citing out mission statement.

Tom agrees and says bringing maintenance closer to programming will make the conflicting needs, field use and field maintenance easier to balance.

Concerns?

Roger, The Pro Shop is under budgetary pressure to provide service and yet the customer's first contact is the Pro Shop.

Chris, Access to the tree crew for golf and grounds? Tom says golf and grounds will have access to tree crew.

Bottom line

In the new organization driven by customer service, everybody represents the organization. If the City stays with the current model, we're as good as we're going to get and will begin a downward spiral as Parks and Recreation compete for dollars with mandated services. Efficiencies created by General Services will be maintained. Lines of responsibilities will be clear with better lines of communication.

Timing

If approved transition would start April 1st the beginning of the "Parks Season" with lessons, camps and field use, if Council wants more time and approves, nine months from now.

Mark asks about endowment plan

David, future Black Ice dollars will go to endowments, if approved, for Improved Ice Skating opportunities.

Endowment Plan, if approved, to start January of 2012.

Control of money, City? Non Profit?

City would set up a 501 c3. This would also enable the foundation to apply for grants the City is not eligible for.

Tom points out that the demographic of golfers is generally of higher income, very passionate lifelong participants who would like to make improvements. This is a strong source for donations.

Chris asks if there is a motion of support for the Manager's proposal

Jennifer makes a motion that GAC support the reorganization plan as presented by the City Manager.

David Seconds

Motion passes by acclaim

Committee adjourns until its regular meeting March 15, 2011

7:30 AM

Beaver Meadow Clubhouse

